

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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92nd Washington State Patrol Basic Training Class Graduates

At a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda this afternoon, 34 Troopers were sworn in by Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, and presented their commission cards by Governor Christine Gregoire and WSP Chief John R. Batiste, who welcomed them into an organization known and trusted by the citizens of Washington State.

After completing over 1000 hours of training, these men and women will join Washington's premier law enforcement organization. The WSP Academy only produces approximately 3 cadet classes each biennium, which accounts for about 120 new troopers. Historically, only about 4 to 6 percent of the total numbers of applicants make the grade to become WSP Troopers.

"The 34 cadets graduating today endured a rigorous application process, extensive background investigation, and received the best training unmatched anywhere else in the nation," said Chief John Batiste. "Today, they will join the ranks of Washington's finest, as troopers of the Washington State Patrol."

A tradition that started a little over 85 years ago on June 21, 1921, when six brave men kick-started their Harley motorcycles, strapped on a arm band, and started a proud tradition known today as the Washington State Patrol, continues with the graduation of the 92nd Trooper Basic Training Class today at the Capitol Rotunda, and the stream of shiny white patrol cars parked in the lanes leading up to the capitol steps.

During the ceremony, the Core Values Award was presented to **Trooper Scott K. Raedel**. This award is presented to the trooper cadet who most typifies the Training Division Core Values during training, which include Honesty, Integrity, Team-Orientation, Attention to Detail, Adaptability, Self-Discipline, Performance-Driven, Professionalism, Officer Safety, and Sense of Urgency. The recipient of this award is determined by an anonymous vote of his classmates, and is sponsored by the Washington State Patrol Memorial Foundation to honor the most recent State Patrol employee to give their life in service to the citizens of the state of Washington. Trooper Jim Saunders was killed in the line of duty on October 7, 1999, and this award is presented today in his honor. Trooper Saunder's wife, Billie, presented the award to Trooper Raedel.

In addition to this award, Chief Batiste presented six trooper cadets with awards at a ceremony held on February 9, during open house at the WSP Academy. These awards included:

Top Driving Award

Presented to **Trooper Brian F. Luedtke**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills and techniques, decision-making and mind-set, and steady and constant improvement through each phase of drivers training. (72 hours)

Top Firearms Award

Presented to **Trooper Scott K. Raedel**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapon systems, marksmanship scores and skills, and demonstrates sound judgment during practical encounter scenarios. (110 hours)

(more)

Top Physical Fitness Award

Presented to **Trooper Timothy J. Yzaguirre**, this award recognizes the highest level of tenacity and drive used to excel physically, which is displayed by a cadet during physical fitness training, control and defensive tactics training, and their command presence. (140 hours)

Top Academic Award

Presented to **Trooper Jennifer D. Ortiz**, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest Grade Point Average during their training. The class average GPA was 90% and Ortiz scored an impressive 94%.

Top Collision Investigation Award

Presented to **Trooper John M. Cunag**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, information and evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork. (64 hours)

Top Overall Cadet Award

Presented to **Trooper Brian F. Luedtke**, this award recognizes the trooper cadet who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused on reaching their goals, and their ability to give 100% in every aspect of their training. Luedtke demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgment to be an excellent trooper, and made extra efforts to continuously make improvements. Luedtke impressed both the Academy staff and those during field training with excellent decision-making and a maturity usually found in a tenured officer.

Most who know Luedtke and observed him going through the academy training wouldn't have had the impression that there was anything amiss in his personal life. However, he has a son by the name of Tyler, who is a vivacious and wonderful 4½ -year-old boy who is fighting a very brave battle against cancer. Because of this, Tyler's dad, Trooper Luedtke, is fighting his own internal battle to succeed and make his son proud, and found the strength to not only continue with Academy training, but to excel at it. Week after week, Trooper Luedtke returned to the academy and impressed the training staff with his focus, dedication and desire to finish what he started.

Listed below are the newest WSP Troopers, their initial assignment, and their local or hometown newspaper:

CADET NAME	ASSIGNMENT	HOMETOWN OR LOCAL NEWSPAPER
1. ANDERSEN, Matthew K.	D-7, Monroe	South County Sun
2. ANDERSON, Derek O.	D-7, Monroe	Stanwood-Camano News
3. BARNES, Gary R. Jr.	D-2, Bellevue	Muskegon Chronicle MI
4. BETTS, Jason D.	D-7, Oak Harbor	Skagit Valley News
5. BRANDT, David J.	D-2, Bellevue	Tri City Herald
6. CUNAG, John M.	D-4, Colfax	Spokesman Review
7. DASHIELL, Nathan D.	D-2, Bellevue	The Star; Grand Coulee, WA
8. ECKLUND, Caleb R.	D-5, Kelso	The Chronicle; Centralia WA
9. FIELD, Donald A.	D-8, Port Townsend	The Olympian
10. HOGGATT, Marcus A.	D-5, Vancouver	Longview Daily News
11. HOLTHAUS, Mark B.	D-2, Bellevue	Spokesman Review
12. JONES, Steven C.	D-7, Monroe	Longview Daily News
13. JORDAN, Bill J.	D-5, Vancouver	The Olympian
14. KELTZ, Alex J.	D-7, Monroe	Everett Herald
15. KNOPP, Timothy R.	D-8, Shelton	Cody Enterprise, Cody WY
16. LAEUGER, Jeffrey S.	D-2, Bellevue	Tacoma News Tribune
17. LEIFSON, Jon W.	D-2, Bellevue	Tacoma News Tribune
18. LIPTON, Travis P.	D-7, Mt. Vernon	Bellingham Herald
19. LUEDTKE, Brian F.	D-3, Kennewick	Tri City Herald

20. MERRITT, Joshua J.	D-2, Bellevue	The Olympian
21. MOSLEY, Lisa-Carol	D-2, Bellevue	Pawtucket Times; Pawtucket RI
22. NOLL, Christopher A.	D-2, Bellevue	Tacoma News Tribune
23. ORTIZ, Jennifer D.	D-5, Vancouver	Sunnyside Daily Sun Herald
24. PELLEBERG, Robert B.	D-2, Bellevue	Spokesman Review
25. PORTER, Branden W.	D-7, Monroe	Tacoma News Tribune
26. QUNELL, Michael K.	D-2, Bellevue	Yakima Herald
27. RAEDEL, Scott K.	D-5, Vancouver	The Olympian
28. RIDER, Leonard A.	D-2, Bellevue	Omak Chronicle
29. ROBERTS, David C.	D-2, Bellevue	Seattle Times, South Bureau Edition
30. SHAWLEY, Courtney D.	D-2, Bellevue	Lewiston News Tribune ID
31. SIVERTSEN, Kristopher	D-8, Port Townsend	Peninsula Daily News
32. STRACKE, Michael B.	D-2, Bellevue	Tacoma News Tribune
33. TEMPLETON, Sean S.	D-7, Monroe	The Valley View, Woodinville WA
34. YZAGUIRRE, Timothy J.	D-7, Oak Harbor	Arlington Times

Photos of each cadet are available upon request. If you would like a photo, please contact the Office of Government and Media Relations (360) 753-5299.

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